TO THE COUNCILL OF OFFICERS OF THE ARMIE, AND THE Heads of the Nation;

And for the INFERIOR OFFICERS and SOULDIERS to read.

O Freinds, do not Rule with your own Reason! And O Freinds, when will you be ſtayed in the truth? (on that foundation [in the truth] which cannot be ſhaken:) And when will you come into that which cannot be ſhaken, and come out of that which can bee ſhaken, and throw that down? O when will you look after the truth, and in it be ſtaid! that you may ſeek after the good of all men, and deny your ſelves, and with the truth, every man deny himſelf, that in that which denyeth ſelf (the power of God) you may live; in which you may know his Kingdom that hath no end, in which is peace, and no ſtrife, but unity. O when will you throw out all thoſe that have been fed like hogs and ſwine amongſt you, and the feeders of them which are become (like the droſs) great Mountains, and others in the mean time ready to ſtarve! O when will equity be found amongſt you,

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that you may have peace, and it may be among you to answer the just principle of God in every one! When must the prisoners go forth, and have justice done them! O when will your persecution and oppression cease in these Nations! Until then, you shall not have peace from the Lord, until the persecutors and oppressors sword be put up, which is turned against the just, which now is turned amongst the Heads of the Nation, and the just sword, (the power of God) which doth secretly work to do his service, to bring forth righteousness, & that must be brought forth, before righteousness be established in the Nations, to destroy all hypocrites and hypocrisie, flatterers and dissemblers, and daubers with untempered morter, that the innocency and wisdome of God may rule. O purge out, purge out all the filth, all the filth from among your selves, and out of your selves! for truth over all will reign, that live not in it.

And (O friend!) the power of God you have abused, which had you lived in, you and the Nations had all been quiet therein, and all the oppressed had had liberty; and the Lord had been the joy of every ones heart; and the spoil of the enemies not have taken up the possession of the heart, as it hath; so that the Lord hath had no place, nor his people; but the just have been trodden under-foot, and made a prey of on every hand, who have been put out of the Army and publike Services, and the Publike Enemy hath had their revenge of many of them, which once they were over. Now had you been faithful in the power of the Lord which once stirred, this Nation needed not have been afraid of any Nation upon the earth; but your dread would have sounded over the world: but when you lost the power of God, and turned against that) with which you had brushed at the out-side of things (then you turned against and put them in prison that struck at the root, by which Nations about you are lifted up, and stand at your doors. That which must break down and keep down, must be the power of the Lord, which if you had abided in, there had been another work in other Nations before now; then you should neither have feared *Holland*, nor *France*, nor *Spain*, nor *Italy*; but have trampled under deceit, and made it to bow: (But all these things are seen over, by them who are come to the election before the world began.)

And had you been faithful to the power of the Lord God which first carried you on, you had gone into the midst of *Spain*, into their Land, to require the blood of the Innocent that there had been shed, and commanded them to have offered up their Inquisition to you, and gone over them as the winde, and knock't at *Rome's* gates before now, and trampled Deceit and Tyrants under, and demanded the Pope himself, and have commanded him to have offered up all his Torture-houses, and his Wracks, and Inquisition, (which you should have found as black as hell) and broke up the barrs and gates where all the just blood hath been shed, which should have been required: And this you should have required, and this you should have seen done in the power, when you had been the dread of all Nations, you had been a dread to them,

them, and should have set up a Standard at *Rome*: And then you should have sent for the *Turk's* Idol, the *Mahomet*, and plucked up Idolatry, and cried up Christ the onely King and Lord; and then people would have said, You had gone on in the cause of God and his truth, without any end to your selves, but the good of all people, for the releasment of all people out of thraldome, bondage and captivity; and by that you should have had a name, being in the power of the Lord which is wonderful and dreadful; then there would have been little need to have looked for gold or silver: But when you lost the power, then came the innocent to be cast into prison here. [Consider that above twenty hundred have been persecuted and imprisoned within these few yeers for conscience sake towards the Lord:] And so if you had gone to have made Inquisition for blood, and to demand all the Inquisitions abroad in the whole Christendome, whereby the blood of the innocent had been shed, then all the people in the whole Christendome that had feared the Lord God, would have said with one consent, These are the men that are gone out for Gods cause, that set open the prison-doors, that will let none be persecuted for Religion that profess God and Christ, and then you would not have imprisoned at home; But now you have prisons to break down at home, where lies about two hundred prisoners now in prisons and dungeons, in nasty and dark holes, and hath lain in fetters and torturings only for the Word of God's sake. And the new Inquisition set up in *New-England*, burning in the hand, and cutting off ears, and the greatest crime as yet heard of, is speaking Thou to a particular, and not putting off the hat, and becaufe they are such as work out their salvation with fear and trembling, and tremble at Gods Word. And so now before you go to work abroad in other Nations, and the Lord prosper you there, you must come to the just in your selves, and the power of the Lord God there, to set open the prison-doors, that all the just and the oppressed may go forth there, (and break down the unjust) which have been imprisoned since the power was lost among you, and many excommunicated within these Dominions, and not suffered to buy nor sell, that Families are almost ruined, and many have almost all their whole estates, horses, and oxen taken away by the priests, for not giving them *Tythes*; and many have been kept in prison till death, by them that are called Priests, for whom they do no work. Therefore if the power of the Lord God be minded, and you rise up in that, and all those things be throwne down at home, that are destructive to the very being of creatures, (such who are called Ministers of Christ) that will imprison to death those whom they do no work for; and if they say they are no Ministers of Christ, but call them Priests, they say they scandalize them, and yet their own Law calls them Priests, Vicars, and Clerks. So now you have the truth to set free at home, before you go to do it abroad; for above twenty of the innocent lambs and harmless, have been persecuted, and their bloud shed in the streets and high-wayes, and imprisoned till death in this Nation within these few yeers, and godly and peaceable Meetings have been broken up by men

with Bills, Staves and Pistols, and their blood lies upon this Nation, and God hath required it, and will require it of their Heads; who might have stopped this martyrdome a great while ago, which was in their power, and did it not; for bonds, & prisons, & fetters, & houses of correction and dungeons, do yet attend the lambs and babes of Christ in every part of the Nation, who have been tryed this seven or eight yeers, whose blood hath been shed, & they beat, and cruelly bruised, and tortured, & martyred, & whipped as Vagrants, their flesh martyred & tortur'd till it hath been ragged again, and yet this hath not asswaged the Adversary. But the Lord is risen, who will plead the cause of the Innocent, not by sword nor by spear, but by his power, in which he will overturn the world, & all the powers of the earth, & all sword-men that be not in his power: Therefore tremble and fear before the great God of *Jacob*, of heaven & earth, in whose hands is all breath, who is the God of the spirits of all flesh, whose trumpet is sounding an Alarum in all the earth, that the inhabitants of the earth shal tremble, & all hills & mountains shall reel like cottage-houses. God is risen in his power, & happy is he that goes on in his arm, and makes his right hand their strength, for there's the safety, and that doth the valiant things; & this arm is above the arm of flesh. Now if simplicity & innocency were minded in every ones heart to do simplicity & innocency, to do such a thing, then you would have peace in the Nations amongst you, & you would be a dread to all the contrary; for you acting in the true simplicity, innocency, & wisdom of God that is from above, that is gentle, pure, peaceable, & easie to be intreated, by which all things were created, with this wisdome to come to order all things to the glory of God under your hands & dominions: and thus you acting in the light, you will be a terror to all the contrary, that they wil be afraid of you to come before you to bring their deeds to the light. God will overturn, & overturn, (mark) before righteousnes be brought forth, that is that which lasteth for ever: And there is not one upon the earth that comes to the law of God that is perfect, and indures for ever, (which lets him see the first trangression, & goes over all transgressors but he must first come to that which he hath transgressed in himself, the noble principle of life in himself which answers the higher power to which the soul must be subject; and that strikes off all mens inventions, & acts & laws, which coms to the law of *God* which is just & equal, that answers to that of God in every man, wherby the law of life coms to be known that makes free from the law of sin & death: and no man upon the earth can know the Scriptures of truth, given forth from the Spirit of Truth, learned of God the Father of Spirits, but they must first come to the Spirit of God & the truth in the inward parts in their own particulars, before people com to have fellowship with God & with the scriptures, which were given forth from the Spirit of *God*. There is no one upon the earth coms to worship *God* in spirit & in truth, but they must all be brought to the truth in the inward parts in their own particulars, & they must be in the spirit, if they be the worshipers of *God* the Father of Spirits; and this is more then all the talkers of Scriptures given forth from the Spirit of *God*; for there would not be a persecutor in all Christendom, if they were worshippers of *God* in the spirit and in the truth, which the Devil (that Lord-persecutor) abode not in.

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Who obeys Christ, loves his enemies, and is in him, the truth, who saves mens lives; but who is out of truth, a worshipper, will kill & compel, and persecute to death, to worship; and if any thing be revealed to another that sits by, he will persecute it, and tell them that revelation is ceas'd: But who be in the truth, and worship in spirit, (that reveals) they quench it not: *The spirits of the Prophets is subject to the Prophets.*

Many Justices of Peace (faithful to the Lord God, to serve him in their generations, to keep peace, to do the thing that is just, and to keep down the unruly and rude) you have put out, whereby you have been the cause of letting all the bruites upon them, that matters not Religion nor Law, that these Nations have been in many places as though there were neither Law, Government, Teachers nor Ministers, as though they never had God nor Scriptures taught among them: And many valiant Captains, Souldiers, and Officers, have been put out of the Army (by Sea and Land) of whom it hath been said among you, That they had rather have had one of them, then seven men, and could have turned one of them to seven men; who because of their faithfulness to the Lord God, being faithful towards him, it may be for saying *Thou* to a particular, and for wearing their hats, have been turned out from amongst you, whereby the rude hath fallen upon them, and they have been counted as a thing of naught, and trampled upon as if they were not men fit to live upon the earth, whom the Lord hath preserved, and heard their prayers, into whose ears they are come, by whose power and arm they have been upholden.

Oh the blood that hath been shed in this Nation for Truth's sake! Oh what knockings down in Markets, in Steeplehouses, and going to Meetings! Oh what imprisoning, and whipping, and persecuting for wearing their hats, and saying *thou* to a particular, and sending up and down with Passes as Vagrants, (men worth three or fourscore pounds a year) whereas it is known throughout the Nation, there is not a beggar among our friends, called *Quakers*: Surely if these men (that do persecute and whip men of three or fourscore pounds a year as Vagrants) had not quite lost their sincerity and true reason, and feeling, they would have looked up and down their Alleys and Steeplehouse-doors, and Streets, and Towns, and have seen thousands of poor begging people, crying up and down for bread: And if they had looked up and down in Taverns and Ale-Houses, there they might have seen such as live in pleasures and drinkings, and would not have caused them to be whipt as Vagrants, who in the fear of the Lord reproved these things in their streets. Now let all sober men judge whether the just doth not bleed here over these things in grief of heart: Oh what shameless things have been acted, which are even past modesty! Oh what nasty Holes, and Dungeons, and Houses of Correction, and Straw, for Truth's sake are people cast into! And oh what cruel actions by the Goalers have been acted towards them, and tollerating the prisoners to pour dung and pis upon their meat! Oh within these few yeers how many have been thus under cruel sufferings in these nasty Holes, under cruel Goalers,

ers, and cruel Persecutors, kept in their prisons till they have ended their lives! Oh what cruel havock and spoiling of the goods of people, (for truths sake) hath been in this Nation by them that call themselves Preachers of the Gospel, and Christians, and must not be called Priests! Oh what cruel havock hath been made upon the people for the word of God's sake, who were met in his fear, breaking up their Meetings, taking away their Horses, which is even hard to be uttered, & multitude of sufferings that can almost hardly be numbered, though it hath been said that such as fear God might meet together, & should not be molested; yet as long as sober Justices are put out, and crooked & perverse kept in, whose wils have been their Law, what else can be expected? oh what breaking of Windows, & unthatching of Houses, & men coming in disguised (with Swords and Pistolls) into Meetings, binding some hand & foot, carrying them into the fields, leaving them there all night in the Winter-season! Oh what havock hath been made of the people of God, that they have come and rode in, and trampled among them with their Horses, and have plucked him up by the hair of the head, that was on his knees praying to the Lord; whereby the persecution in this Nation hath given an ill savour unto the Nations hereabout, and it rings abroad in the world, that when friends are moved of the Lord God to go into other Nations to declare the truth of God and his Word, they cast it upon them, and imprison many, and say they will serve them, and do to them as their own Nation does. Oh! How are men fallen from that which they were at first, when thousands of us went in the front of you, and were with you in the greatest heat, who looked not for the spoil, but the good of the nations, and now thus should be served by those that are set down in the possession of the spoil of our enemies, that they should requite us so in the end! Oh! the Lords truth, the Lords power, and the Lords arm is more dear to us then all, who have not sate down in the spoil of our Enemies, who are come to the Lord who hath given us victory, and hath brought us to the light that takes away the occasion and root of the war, whereby we know the election before the world began; for when the Jews lived in the Law of God, their sword was turned against the Heathen without, and they were the dread of all nations; but when they transgressed the Law of God, and kept onely the form of words, and transgressed against the just in themselves, then they turned against the Prophets, and smote them, imprisoned and killed them, and turned against Christ himself. So all this imprisoning, persecution, inquisition, killing, wracking, and torturing people to death, hath been set up by a power, and must be thrown down by another power, which is the power of God, which destroys the other power which is contrary to it.

Oh! what a seriousness was in people at the beginning of the wars? yea, both in small and great: But oh, how hath the spoile of the enemies, (and such as have sate down in it,) choaked it, and turned against all seriousness, they themselves having lost it, and so become fatted with the spoil of the Houses of the Enemy; for when you sate down in the Enemies spoil, you lost

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the power and the dread of Nations; and the Enemies about you in other nations, looked upon you, and the amazement and terror which before you were to them, was loſt, when you went from the power of the Lord, and ſought your ſelves: Oh what a ſincerity was there once in the nation! What a dirty, naſty thing it would have been to have heard talk of a Houſe of Lords among them! oh how is the ſincerity choaked, ſmothered & quenched by the fatneſs of the earth, whereby they have forgotten the Lord, & his arm & power that once carryed them on! Oh how are they fallen out of that Power, out of that Arm! Oh how will you riſe again! Oh what abundance have you yet to throw off, which is ſet up ſince the day that ſincerity was loſt! Oh how have men been without feeling ſince the day of their adverſity, in the time of their fulneſs! Oh how hath lightneſs and joy ſprung up, eating and drinking, making merry, and riſing up to play! Oh how is the ſtate of Chriſtianity gone, and the ſincere life that once approached, and the pure feeling and taſte, how is that loſt, whereby the juſt, and the innocent, and the harmleſs Lambs of Chriſt, lye languiſhing, weak and ſick in priſons, and not viſited? and ſuch as do viſit them, come to be impriſoned by ſuch as are lifting themſelves up. Oh how have you left all the ſincere men of the Nation, which ſtood with you in the day of ſincerity, and made up a Mountain, and ſet up your ſelves, whereby ſincerity hath been loſt and forgotten! Oh! but how is the day of ſhaking now come upon all that be gone out of the Power and Arm of the Lord, and loſt their ſincerity! Now is the day come, now is the Arm ſtretched out, now is the day appeared that ſhall try all things, and bring all actions of men to light, and none ſhall eſcape it, for the Arm, and Power, and Sword of the Lord is ſtretched abroad, which will execute its work, and do its ſervice; and now ſhall be known the tottering of Hills, and removing of Mountains, and nothing ſhall eſcape the hand, arm and power of the Lord. and nothing ſhal live but in righteouſneſs. Oh! how are men given up to ſpeak fair words, whoſe fruits ſpeak no deeds! Oh! how full are men of fair ſpeeches, & ſmooth words, but not performed, their practices declare it, whereby now that is riſen in the Nation, and ſtirred, that it will not be words will ſerve the turn, it will not be words, but the life and fruits, and the power that leads people to ſo ſay, and ſo do, therein people do as much as they ſpeak, and ſo come to know the Law of liberty, and are the wiſe men that loſe not the ſincerity: Oh how have men been deceived by talkers and talks, by fair ſpeeches, pretences, and flatteries, until it hath grown to be a cuſtom to ſpeak fair words, whereby deceit is grown to ſuch a height, that men have been afraid of one another, to do juſtice, and own the innocent; but the general univerſal ſpirit in mankind hath been impriſoned, that men have not ſtood every one on their own legs in the power of God, and ſo through flattery, and fair ſpeeches, and feigned words, have deceived, and clogged, and brought one another into thraldom, that when juſtice ſhould have been done, they have been ſo afraid of one another, that they could not act it, yet full of good words and fair ſpeeches; the juſt lyes in priſon in themſelves, and they cauſe it to be impriſoned in the general, and that is it which will not let looſe, nor ſet free, and it is impoſſible it

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ſhould until it be freed within: The juſt that lies in priſon, and is impriſoned by the unjuſt, it never looks for any thing that that ſhould do, until the juſt be broken out of priſon in their own ſelves, that doth impriſon, and cauſe to be impriſoned, and ſuffers the juſt to be in priſon in the outward: The juſt muſt be ſet free in every one's own particular, before he viſits the juſt that is in priſon without; the power of God muſt break the priſon-doors open within, before he ſet the priſon open without; and that is the Arm, the Hand, the Power (and not with mens words) which we have unity withall, who are come to the kingdom that ſtands in power, of which there is no end, whoſe life is in the end of the Law and the Prophets, Chriſt, and know his reign, and ſtand in that, in which there is peace, the Seed, Chriſt, which deſtroyeth the Devil, the author of wars, ſtrifes, and confuſions, and which ſeed deſtroys his work, and death, where he hath his Authority; and which Seed, Chriſt, reconcileth to God, all things in Heaven, and all things in Earth, through which we come to have unity with God.

And you Souldiers, do violence to no man, accuſe no man falſly, which if you do (violence to any man, or accuſe any man falſly) you go from the juſt Principle of God in you, and upon you will God bring his juſtice, and over you will the Truth reign: To you this is the word of the Lord God; for not doing violence to any man, nor accuſing any man falſly, that differs you from violent doers, and falſe accuſers, whereby your ſword is turned againſt violent doers, and falſe accuſers, and a terror to the evil doers; and to them that do well, the ſword is a praiſe, and ſuch bear not the ſword in vain, nor are like the blind perſecutors, that turn the ſword backwards; (for perſecution was alwayes blind) but they (on the contrary) that bore the ſword not in vain, were a terror to the evil doer, and a praiſe to thoſe that do well; Theſe were not blind men, nor are not, but theſe are the men that can ſee, amongſt whom the Lords preſence, power, life, counſel, and dignity is; and ſo now you have time, prize it.

And if ever you Souldiers and true Officers come again into the power of God which hath been loſt, never ſet up your Standart until you come to *Rome*, and it be a top of *Rome*, then there let your Standart ſtand, and look at the power of the Lord God, and never heed gold nor ſilver, for the power of the Lord will give you enough.

And if you let the Prieſts come among you, to counſel you, they will cover you with darkneſs, and contention, and ſlavery, and bury the witneſs of God in you; and by hearkening to them, you will do it in your ſelves, that you cannot do juſtice to others; therefore what you do, do it without them, and take counſel of God, (for what they counſel, they will do for their own ends) but the Lord will preſerve his from ſuch who have been the beginning of all blood, wars, and perſecution ſince the dayes of the Apoſtles; for the power of God which the Apoſtles were in, is now manifeſt, by which all ſuch are comprehended, and all that which is got up ſince their dayes.

From a Lover of peace, and all ſouls, who ſtands in the Election before the world began, *F. G.*

THE END.